

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 4, without prejudice; and amend claims 1 and 11. The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disk evaluation apparatus, comprising:

an evaluation head for evaluating a magnetic disk; and

a support member for supporting the evaluation head,

wherein the support member supports the evaluation head in a state where a flying surface of the evaluation head and a surface of a magnetic disk make a flying pitch angle of  $95\ \mu\text{rad}$  or more,

wherein a negative pressure inducing configuration is provided on the flying surface of the evaluation head, and thereby a negative pressure to attract the evaluation head to the magnetic disk on the basis of an airflow caused by a rotation of the magnetic disk is generated, and

wherein the negative pressure inducing configuration includes an airflow obstacle wall part having a bending part formed at an air inflow side of the flying surface and a straight line part having an air bearing surface through which the airflow inflows beneath the evaluation head.

2. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support member supports the evaluation head at a position of  $0.78L$  or more from an air inflow end part of the evaluation head, where  $L$  is defined as a whole length of the evaluation head in an airflow direction.

3. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a load of  $3.5\text{ gf}$  or more is provided to the evaluation head by the support member.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a rigidity of an air film formed between the evaluation head and the magnetic disk is  $0.33\text{ gf/nm}$  or more.

6. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a lower limit value of a flying-height of the evaluation head from the surface of the magnetic disk in a state where the glide height evaluation head is not in contact with the magnetic disk is evaluated by the evaluation head.

7. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation head includes a flying surface, and at least part of the flying surface is formed by a film of a protection material selected from a group consisting of an amorphous carbon, a diamond like carbon, a diamond like carbon to which hydrogen is added, and a diamond like carbon to which nitride is added.

8. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least part of the formed film of the protection material is fluoride-processed.

9. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein a convex part projecting towards the magnetic disk is formed on a part of the formed film of the protection material.

10. (Original) A magnetic disk evaluation apparatus including an evaluation head, comprising:

a contact detect means for detecting a contact with a magnetic disk on which a lubricant is applied and outputting a detected signal;

a detected signal dividing means for dividing the detected signal into frequency components of a first frequency band which are generated based on a contact between a convex part of the magnetic disk and the evaluation head, and frequency

components of a second frequency band which are generated based on a contact between a convex part of the lubricant and the evaluation head; and

a contact decision means which is connected to the detected signal dividing means, and detects a contact of the evaluation head with the convex part of the lubricant in response to detection of a signal component exceeding a designated threshold only in the second frequency band.

11. (Currently Amended) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the contact decision means further decides that the evaluation head comes in contact with the convex part of the magnetic disk in case of that a signal component exceeding a designated threshold value at least in the first frequency band is included in the detect signal.

12. (Original) The magnetic disk evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first frequency band and the second frequency band are separated by a border frequency selected from 100 – 500 kHz on a basis of a configuration of the evaluation head.